

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137876

EXDIS, TOSEC 65

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 8857 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
26 JUNE 1974 FOR THE SECRETARY:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8857

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, IT (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ROME

REF: ROME 8668

1. WE BELIEVE MAJOR THRUST OF SECRETARY'S COMMENTS TO ITALIANS
SHOULD BE THAT WE RECOGNIZE SERIOUSNESS OF RECENT ITALIAN
GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS WHICH, AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME AND WITH
ACCOMPANYING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ASSUMED MORE THAN USUAL
IMPORTANCE. WE WERE OF COURSE CONVINCED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC
ITALIAN LEADERSHIP WOULD RAISE TO THE CHALLENGE AND WERE
GRATIFIED THAT OUR CONFIDENCE WAS JUSTIFIED. FOR OUR
PART, WE CONTINUE TO BE BOTH CONFIDENT OF ITALY'S RESILIENCE
AND DETERMINED IN OUR SUPPORT FOR ITALY - A COUNTRY WHICH IS
CLOSE TO US IN TRADITIONS, BLOOD TIES, AND FRIENDSHIP, AND
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WHICH PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE STRUCTURE OF EUROPE AND THE

ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

2. FURTHER TO BE ABOVE, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL POINTS:

A. WITH LEONE: WE HAVE ADMIRERD THE LEADERSHIP WHICH LEONE HAS BROUGHT TO THE QUIRINAL PLACE, IN A CONSTITUTIONAL STURCTURE IN WHICH THE PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP ROLE DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON THE INCUMBENT. PRESIDENT LEONE'S IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP STYLE HAS INCLUDED A PERTINENT BUT DISCREET CALL (IN JANUARY) FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND A WELL-TEMPERED VOICING OF THE PEOPLES FEELINGS DURNG THE HARSH TESTS TO WHICH ITALY HAS BEEN PUT BY THE POLITICAL VIOLENCE OF RECENT MONTHS. IN PARTICULAR, PRESIDENT LEONE HAS WELL EARNED THE COMPLIMENTS HE RECEIVED FROM VIRTUALLY ALL QUARTERS FOR HIS DECISIVE RECENT ACTION TO AVERT THE FALL OF THE FIFTH RUMOR GOVERNMENT. HIS REJECTION OF RUMOR'S RESIGNATION SPARED ITALY AT LEAST A FURTHER TWO WEEKS OF CRISIS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN THE MINIMUM TO PUT TOGETHER A NEW GOVERNMENT.

B. WITH MORO: WE ARE PLEASED THAT DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST MONTHS HAVE PRODUCED MUCH PROGRESS IN US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS, AND MANY FACTORS IN THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE ENCOURAGING IN THEIR APPLICATION TO OUR RELATIONS WITH ITALY. THESE INCLUDE THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION AND THE IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR US-EC CONSULTATIONS, WHICH HAVE FACILITATED UNDERSTANDING WITH REGARD TO THE EC-ARAB INITIATIVE AND THE ITALIAN INITIATIVE FOR A SEPARATE CSCE DECLARATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. WE SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT WE SEE STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD ALLIED AGREEMENT ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CSCE INCLUDING BASKET III.

WE SHOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT OF LA MADDALENA, EXPRESSING REGRET THAT OUR HOMEPORTING OF THE SUBMARINE TENER HAS ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS RELATED TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL QUESTIONS. WE SHOULD EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE PROBLEMS CAN BE QUICKLY RESOLVED TO PERMIT THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE SUBMARINE TENDER'S ACTIVITY. (ALTHOUGH DETAILS NEED NOT BE RAISED IN CONVERSATION WITH MORO, THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO BE REMINDED THAT OUR GENERAL POLITICAL-MILITARY PROBLEMS HAVE INCLUDED: (1) THE POSTPONEMENT ON SHORT NOTICE OF LONG-PLANNED NATO EXERCISE,FLAMING LANCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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BECAUSE OF REGIONAL SARDINIAN ELECTIONS; (2) AN ITALIAN SUGGESTION THAT THE NUMBER OF SUBMARINES SERVICED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THE SUBMARINE TENDER BE LIMITED DURNG THE SUMMER TOURIST SEASON, WHEN THE VISIBILITY OF THE SUBMARINES MIGHT BE HIGHER; AND (3) RESTRICTIONS ON OUR SUPPORT OPERATIONS, IMPOSED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS, IN WHICH THE GOI HAS NOT BEEN INCLINED TO TAKE STEPS TO OVERRIDE LOCAL DECISIONS.)

WE SHOULD ALSO RAISE THE QUESTION OF OUR DESIRE FOR GREATER NATO COOPERATION WITH SPAIN, PARTICULARLY ON THE MILITARY SIDE. ITALIAN SENSITIVITIES HAVE BEEN SUCH THAT THEY HAVE REGULARLY BEEN AMONG THE MOST RELUCTANT OF OUR ALLIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LINKS WITH SPAIN.

C. WITH RUMOR: WE WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THE RAPID SOLUTION OF THE RECENT NEAR-CRISIS, AND PARTICULARLY WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN THE COALITION TO CONTINUE THEIR COOPERATION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT FEW ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE AND WE BELIEVE WE SHARE WITH ITALY'S OTHER FRIENDS THE ASSESSMENT THAT COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT WITH PARTIES WHICH DO NOT SHARE THE POLITICAL IDEALS OF THE COALITION PARTIES WOULD NOT PROVIDE A SOLUTION TO THE GRAVE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH ITALY, AND INDEED OTHER COUNTRIES WITHIN THE ATLANTIC FAMILY, ARE FACED. ON THE OTHER HAND, OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF ITALY'S DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAS NOT FLAGGED, AND WE HOPE THAT ITALY'S LEADERS ARE AWARE OF OUR CONTINUING DETERMINATION TO SUPPORT ITALY IN EVERY APPROPRIATE WAY, TOGETHER WITH HER EC PARTNERS AND NATO ALLIES. WE BELIEVE IT IS CLEAR THAT THE RECENT C-20 MEETING IN WASHINGTON WAS RESPONDING TO ITALIAN NEEDS IN ITS FORMULATION OF POLICY ON THE USE OF GOLD RESERVES. THIS IS ONLY ONE INDICATION, OF THE MANY WE ARE SURE ITALY HAS RECEIVED, THAT HER FRIENDS REMAIN STADFAST WITH ITALY IN THE DESIRED BUILDING OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS. WE SHOULD CONGRATULATE THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE AGREED ECONOMIC PACKAGE WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF RENEWED COOPERATION AMONG THE COALITION PARTIES, AND WE SHOULD UNDERLINE OUR GOOD WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF HIS PROGRAM AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. DISCUSSIONS ARE STILL UNDERWAY WITHIN THE GOI AS TO WHAT MATTERS MAY BE RAISED BY THE ITALIAN SIDE DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE NOTES THAT OBVIOUSLY EAST-WEST
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RELATIONS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MOSCOW TRIP, WILL BE OF GREAT INTEREST. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THIS TOPIC WOULD NATURALLY EXTEND TO THE MIDDLE EAST. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, PRESENT THINKING IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL ALSO BE RAISED. TWO ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT NOT YET DECIDED FOR INCLUSION ARE LA MADDALENA (SEE PARA B. ABOVE) AND DUNN-VANNONI. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT PROPOSE THAT THE SECRETARY RAISE DUNN-VANNONI, BUT THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED IN THE EVENT IT IS RAISED BY THE ITALIAN SIDE. DEFINITIVE INFORMATION AS TO THE TOPICS THE ITALIANS WILL RAISE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO US EARLIER THAN THURSDAY, JUNE 27. VOLPE UNQTE SISCO

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